

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /095 W

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R 2100740Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1618

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

US MISSION NATO 577

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SS, SP, MO, UN

SUBJ: SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS

REF: MADRID 2496

SUMMARY: FIRST SESSION OF ICJ CONSIDERATION OF SAHARAN  
ISSUE HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED IN SPAIN BY REPORTS OF SPAIN'S  
OPPOSITION TO APPOINTMENT OF AD HOC JUDGES FROM MOROCCO AND  
MAURITANIA AND SUGGESTION THAT UNSPECIFIED EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION  
GAVE CLASSIFIED MEMO TO ICJ ON POTENTIAL DANGER IN HAVING  
MOROCCO CORNER WORLD MARKET FOR PHOSPHATES BY TAKING OVER  
SAHARA. GOS MILITARY COURT HAS ALSO HANDED DOWN SIX-YEAR  
SENTENCES TO FIVE SAHARAN IMMIGRANTS FOR ATTACK ON SPANISH  
PATROL. MAURITANIA HAS REPORTEDLY ASKED THAT UN COMMITTEE  
SCHEDULED TO VISIT SAHARA ALSO INCLUDE MAURITANIA ON ITINERARY.  
END SUMMARY.

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2. SPANISH PRESS HAS REPORTED INITIAL DISCUSSION APRIL 16 IN THE HAGUE BY ICJ ON SAHARAN ISSUE. SPANISH CORRESPONDENTS REPORT THAT GOS, RESPONDING TO EARLIER MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION OF THEIR JUDGES IN COURT'S DELIBERATIONS TO BALANCE PRESENCE OF SPANISH JUDGE, SENT NOTE TO ICJ OBJECTING TO PROCEDURAL DISPUTE IN CASE WHICH IS TO LEAD ONLY TO ADVISORY OPINION. ONE CORRESPONDENT ALLEGES THAT AN UNSPECIFIED EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION SUBMITTED CONFIDENTIAL REPORT TO ICJ DESCRIBING THREAT TO WORLD COMMUNITY SHOULD MOROCCO CORNER SUPPLY OF PHOSPHATES.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORT FROM NEW YORK, MAURITANIAN DELEGATE HAS ASKED UN COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION TO INSTRUCT SPECIAL UN COMMITTEE WHICH IS TO VISIT SAHARA TO INCLUDE MAURITANIA ON ITINERARY. REQUEST REPORTEDLY REFERS TO "SOCIAL/ CULTURAL AFFINITIES" BETWEEN MAURITANIAN AND SAHARAN POPULATIONS AND EXISTENCE OF "ARTIFICIAL FRONTIER" BETWEEN TWO AREAS. IT IS SPECULATED IN NEW YORK THAT MOROCCO AND ALGERIA MIGHT FOLLOW MAURITANIA'S EXAMPLE WITH SIMILAR REQUESTS.

4. ACCORDING TO NATIONAL MOVEMENT NEWSPAPER "ARRIBA", SAHARAN COMMITTEE COMPRISING 40 NOTABLES, INCLUDING PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SAHARA AND MAYOR OF EL AIUUN, VISITED MAURITANIA (AREA OF ZUERAT) APRIL 9-13, TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH ILLEGAL SAHARAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT, "F POLISARIO", MAURITANIAN

GOVT REPORTEDLY OBJECTED TO SUCH CONTACTS AND TOLD VISITORS THAT NO "F POLISARIO" MEMBERS WERE ON MAURITANIAN TERRITORY. ONE OF PURPOSES OF PROPOSED MEETINGS WITH THIS GROUP WAS TO NEGOTIATE RELEASE OF SPANISH HOSTAGE (REFTEL).

5. SPANISH COURT MARTIAL IN CANARIES ON APRIL 16 SENTENCED FIVE SAHARANS TO SIX YEARS OF PRISON EACH FOR PARTICIPATION IN AMBUSH OF SPANISH PATROL JAN 26, 1974 IN SAHARA. ALL WERE REPORTEDLY MEMBERS OF THE POPULAR LIBERATION FRONT OF THE SAHARA (KIPSA).

6. IN INTERVIEW WITH SPANISH WEEKLY "MUNDO" (INDEPENDENT), TWO MEMBERS OF NATIONAL SAHARAN UNION PARTY (PUNS) SAID THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"F POLISARIO" INCLUDED POPULAR LIBERATION FRONT OF SAHARA AND MOVEMENT OF MAY 21. THEY ADDED THAT PROGRAM OF "F POLISARIO" WAS AMALGAM OF SOCIALISM, NASSERISM, AND QADAFI SYMPATHIZERS.

7. MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR FILALI TOLD T EKDSCS REPS APRIL 17 IN BARCELONA THAT "MOROCCO AND SPAIN WERE FATED TO LIVE TOGETHER,

AND CONSEQUENTLY, WERE FATED TO FIND TOGETHER A SOLUTION TO THEIR MUTUAL PROBLEMS". GOS, MEANWHILE, IN RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION APRIL 10, HAS REITERATED ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER PRESIDIOS OF CEUTA, MELILLA, ALHUCEMAS, AND OTHER ISLANDS.

8. COMMENT: GOS IS KEEPING SAHARAN AND PRESIDIO ISSUES IN PUBLIC ATTENTION AS WELL AS DOING ITS UTMOST TO BOLSTER ITS CASE WITH ICJ. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT GOS, TO ELICIT SUPPHCT FOR ITS POSITION RE SAHARA, NOW SEEKING TO AWAKEN FEARS ABOUT MOROCCAN CONTROL OF WORLD PHOSPHATE MARKETING. (REPORTEDLY SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE MOROCCAN PHOSPHATE MONOPOLY WAS DISCUSSED DURING GERMAN FONMIN'S RECENT VISIT.) SAHARAN NOTABLES' ATTEMPT TO CONTACT "F POLISARIO" MEMBERS MAY HAVE BEEN GOS-SPONSORED EFFORT NOT ONLY TO OBTAIN RELESAS OF HOSTAGE BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO BRING ALL INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS UNDER ITS WING; THIS SPECULATION IS SUPPORTED BY MFA STATEMENT TO EMBOFF THAT GOS WAS IN CONTACT WITH "F POLISARIO" (REFTEL). MILITARY TRIAL OF FIVE SAHARAN INSURGENTS IS THE FIRST SUCH CASE WHICH HAS BEEN MADE PUBLIC. CONSIDERING THE NATURE OF THE CRIME, THE SENTENCES DO NOT SEEM HARSH, POSSIBLY INDICATING GOS READINESS TO PUNISH WOULD-BE REBELS BUT TO AVOID EXACERBATING RELATIONS WITH THE LOCAL POPULATION AND CREATING MARTYRS.

9. MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT ECHOES STATEMENTS MADE BY A NUMBER OF OFFICIAL SPANIARDS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES, BECAUSE OF THEIR PROXIMAITY AND HISTORICAL TIES, HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RESOLVE THEIR MUTUAL PROBLEMS TRHROUGH NEGOTIATION. NOT SURPRISINGLY, AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT MORE RESTRAINED AND REASONABLE THAN STATEMENTS BY MOROCCO'S LEADERS AS REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS.  
STABLER

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

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